

To: Montana House Judiciary Committee  
From: John McKenna President of the Recreational Aviation Foundation  
1711 West College Street Bozeman, MT. 59715  
Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007  
Place: Helena, MT.  
Subject: SB 318 Recreational Use Statute extension to aircraft

Good Morning Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am here today as the President of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) a Bozeman based organization, as well as a lifelong resident of MT., and an active pilot for 37 years. Aviation has played a role in all of my life—both personal and professionally. I regularly utilize our aircraft for business reasons, but the real reason I am here today is to encourage you to give a Do Pass to this amendment to the existing law for recreational aviation use.

The RAF has a mission to enhance, preserve and create additional flying opportunities here in MT. This legislation will offer landowners the incentive to open their lands to use by aircraft. Private aircraft are an economic driver here in this state, and just like those that like to see our great state via car, motor home, bike, or from their motorcycle or horse—the aircraft is a mode of transportation that is the chosen method for many within our state boundaries, as well as visitors from all over the U.S. & Canada. Those that fly like to enjoy the same things that many of us do when not working here, including camping, hiking, fishing, and just enjoying what MT has to offer.

Since this amendment was introduced we have heard from a number of interested folks who have suggested that this will go a long way to assisting them in making the decision to allowing this use on their lands. The aviation community has done a great job of being a good citizen here in MT and looks forward to that continuing partnership. That relationship revolves around taking good care of the resources we have, and being responsible for our own actions and activities.

It is the goal of the RAF to continue to provide as many quality experiences for those who utilize aircraft to visit and tour this great state we call home.

This legislation will go a long way to assisting that goal.

Thank you for your time, interest and consideration.